

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02910 171435Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 L-03 OES-07 /067 W
-----046304 172314Z /75

R 171232Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1747
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USDOC WASHDC
USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS JIDDA 2910

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, SA
SUBJ: ARABSAT CONSULTANCY CONTRACT

REF: JIDDA 2504 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
DAILY ARAB NEWS ON APRIL 16:
BEGIN QUOTE. THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE TO HAVE THEIR OWN
SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCORDING TO A DEAL SIGNED
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HERE (RIYADH) SATURDAY (APRIL 15).
THE RIYADH-BASED ARAB SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS ORGA-
NIZATION SIGNED THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMSAT GENERAL CORP.
A SUBSIDIARY OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORP. OF THE U.S.
FOR THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR
THE SYSTEM, THE SAUDI PRESS AGENCY REPORTED.
FAISAL AHMED ZAIDAN, UNDERSECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF

POST, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH, SAID ON SIGNING THAT THE COMPANY WOULD PROVIDE ALL CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE NETWORK WHICH WOULD EXPAND AND IMPROVE TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, TELEX AND TELEVISION COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING.

LAST MONTH A SPOKESMAN FOR THE U.S. COMPANY WAS QUOTED SAYING THAT THE SYSTEM SATELLITE WOULD SERVE 21 ARAB COUNTRIES. THE COMPANY'S SERVICES WERE TO INCLUDE SYSTEM DESIGN, MONITORING OF CONSTRUCTION OF SPACECRAFT AND GROUND FACILITIES AND LAUNCH ASSISTANCE HE ESTIMATED THE VALUE OF THE CONTRACT AT BETWEEN \$16 MILLION AND \$21 MILLION.

ZAIDAN ADDED THAT THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED ALSO FOR THE SATELLITE TRANSMISSION OF NEWS AND CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: ETEL, SOPN, SA
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